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strata in the field, a subject which at the present day some otherwise excellent scientific men are attempting to depreciate.

A second work by the same authors on engineering geology will soon be published. It purports to be a practical guide in the interpretation of those geological phenomena by which engineering works, building materials and water supply are effected, and in the methods of surveying, by which such geological conditions are determined.

SKETCHES OF THE PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY OF NEBRASKA.¹—This is one of the most interesting and valuable books yet published on the scientific and practical resources of the State of Nebraska. Prof. Aughey has been for many years a most enthusiastic student of its geography and geology, until he has become the reliable authority all over the country. His paper on the Loess published in the Annual Report of the Geological Survey of the Territories for 1874, called out a very complimentary letter from Mr. James Geikie, of Scotland. In this book he has elaborated his former sketches on various subjects connected with the State, and presented them in a clear and graphic manner, which cannot but render them very attractive to the general reader. Although the first edition has been issued but a few months, already a second edition is called for. We congratulate Prof. Aughey on his well-deserved success.

ARCHIVES OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE AND SURGERY.²—We note with interest the appearance of this new periodical. Its objects are divided between economic and pure science, so as to appeal to a larger constituency than if its scope were confined to either alone. We note various interesting statements of observations on the pathology and anatomy of the lower animals, especially of the Vertebrata. One of these, on the Island of Reil, we transfer to our notes. The *Archives* has a wide field, and, under its present able editor, we hope for its success.

TRAQUAIR ON PLATYSOMIDÆ.³—This memoir fills a hiatus in our knowledge of palæozoic fishes, in a very satisfactory manner. As defined by Dr. Traquair, the family *Platysomidæ* includes the genera *Eurynotus* Ag., *Benedenius* Traqu., *Mesolepis* Young, *Eury-somus* Young, *Wardichthys* Traqu., *Churodus* McCoy, and *Platysomus* Agass. These genera are fully defined from internal and external characters, and are illustrated by good plates, which include several restorations. Dr. Traquair has been very successful in working out the osteology of these forms, and in discovering

¹ *Sketches of the Physical Geography and Geology of Nebraska*. By SAMUEL AUGHEY, Ph.D., LL.D.

² *Archives of Comparative Medicine and Surgery*; a Quarterly Journal of the Anatomy, Pathology and Therapeutics of the Lower Animals. Edited by EDWARD SPITZKA, M.D. New York, W. L. Hyde & Co., Printers.

³ On the Structure and Affinities of the *Platysomidæ*. By RAMSEY H. TRAQUAIR, M. D. From the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Vol. XXIX, 1879.